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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1906.

A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong; which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.  
—Pope.

## Greetings to the Lawmakers.

The General Assembly of Virginia will meet to-day in the new Capitol building, and the members will have comfortable and sanitary quarters. They are to be congratulated upon this notable improvement. The rooms in which the members sat in bygone days were wretched in point of ventilation—so bad, indeed, that many a valuable citizen of this State was needlessly sacrificed. The new rooms are delightful in every respect, and this session of the General Assembly in that matter will be the most comfortable session ever held in the Capitol building.

This will be one of the most interesting sessions of the General Assembly in the history of the State. It meets in the new Capitol after the new Constitution has been in effect long enough to test its practical operation. It will have one message from the retiring Governor and another message from the incoming Governor, and it will have a number of public questions of profound importance to consider. There is a public demand for improvements in the public school system which implies larger appropriations. There is public demand for a practical method of working the roads, and if we do not mistake public sentiment, the demand is for a State highway commission and a system which will provide for thorough co-operation between the State and the counties in this important work.

Next to these, in our view, the question of most importance to be considered is the Torrens Land Registry system, which has been tried in other States and proven to be eminently successful. We sincerely hope that the General Assembly will, after mature deliberation, set its way to give to the people the benefit of this modern system of registering titles. The members will not be asked to vote for a measure which may make this system compulsory, but for a measure which will give the land owners the opportunity of taking advantage of the system if they so desire.

Hon. Eugene C. Massee, delegate from Richmond, has made this a subject of the most careful research, and the more he has studied it the more convinced he has become of its efficiency and desirability as a Virginia institution. Mr. Massee has been so persistent in his effort to establish the Torrens system that some have thought that he had a selfish motive in view. It is not true. Mr. Massee has no interest other than that of a good citizen, and he expects to derive no benefit whatsoever save the benefit which will be open to every land owner. His labors in this direction have been in the nature of an unselfish, patriotic service. Eugene Massee is above suspicion.

Another question which will demand attention will be certain amendments to the Mann liquor law. This law has been in operation for years, and so far as we can ascertain, it is supported by the best and dominant sentiment of the State. It is a law which the people want, otherwise there would be a clamor for its repeal. That being the case, the law should be so amended as to make it effective; to make it serve its purpose and to prevent evasions. We understand that the temperance element will ask for no amendments other than such as may be needed to break up the fake distilleries in the rural districts, which are nothing more than farm-house bar-rooms in disguise, and to break up the fake social clubs in the cities, which are the worse forms of bar-rooms and gambling houses, and which are used as a means of evading the Sunday liquor law, and the law against gaming in public places.

In the interest of public morals, and in the interest of law and order, in the interest of common humanity, these amendments to the law should be adopted, and they should be framed in such language as to admit of no evasion.

There is also a demand for a legalized primary plan, and members may well consider if it be not good public policy to provide for paying the cost of such elections out of the general fund of the State.

There are other matters of importance

to engage the attention of the members, among which the proposition to sue the State of West Virginia, the readjusting of the State, equalization of taxes, and so on, and, in addition, a senator in Congress and judges are to be chosen. The members have serious work before them, and they should have the sympathy and helpful co-operation of all good citizens. Whatever suggestions The Times-Dispatch may offer from time to time will be in that spirit.

Richmond is always glad to welcome the members of the General Assembly. They are the honorable citizens; they come from all parts of the State; they come as the representatives of the whole State, and it is both agreeable and profitable to the people of the capital city to have them here and to have not alone the benefit of their public services, but the pleasure of their society in the social circle.

## Operations of the Gas Works.

In an article yesterday on the earnings of the city gas works the printer made us say that "It would appear from this statement that we did the department an injustice in presuming that the net earnings of the works from 1897 to 1905 were \$1,077,529.58." What we did say was that we did the department NO INJUSTICE in that statement. Let us now analyze the report and in order that the reader may intelligently follow us, we reproduce it as follows:

Summary showing net results to the city of Richmond from the gas works from the year 1897 to 1905, inclusive:

Receipts from gas bills, sales, etc., \$ 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Payroll, 1,025,237.72  
Coal, 125,145.65  
Oil, 117,579.04  
Total, 4,698,951.23

Excess of receipts over disbursements, \$ 1,174,529.58  
Public consumption, \$1,010,212.53  
Loss interest on cost of works, etc., 1,142,820.70  
Total, 38,074.35

Amount works entitled to credit for: Construction, \$1,622,929.52  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,469,218.58

Net revenue for thirty years.....\$ 88,357.90  
Less cost of work, etc., 1,110,242.20  
Total, \$1,021,884.30

Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Total, \$1,021,884.30

Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 868,173.40

Surplus after paying interest, \$ 868,173.40  
Total receipts for 1897, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1898, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1899, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1900, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1901, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1902, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1903, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1904, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1905, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1906, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1907, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1908, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1909, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1910, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1911, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1912, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1913, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1914, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1915, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1916, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1917, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1918, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1919, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1920, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1921, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1922, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1923, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1924, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

Total receipts for 1925, 2,722,996.52  
Less: Depreciation, 1,110,242.20  
Less: Interest on cost of works, etc., 153,710.94  
Total, 1,458,943.38

It is his deliberate conclusion that exclusive of the new holder the sum of \$336,000 would be ample to provide for every improvement necessary to put the gas works in prime condition.

In this analysis, we have endeavored to make such an exhibit as will enable the reader to decide for himself whether or not municipal operation of the city gas works has been successful in a financial way, and that is the only purpose of the publication.

## The White House and the News.

A few days ago we had something to say in protest against the over-ready criticism which followed upon the recent election of Mrs. Minor Morris from the White House. Our remarks were based upon the presumably official statement of Assistant Secretary Barnes, who declared that the lady had behaved in so disorderly a way that her removal was not only justifiable but necessary. In accepting Mr. Barnes' statement at its face value, it now appears that we have been somewhat premature.

Four newspaper men who were eyewitnesses of the affair—while Mr. Barnes himself, they say, was not stamp on the assistant secretary's statements as absolutely untrue, they assert positively that Mrs. Morris did not scream or make any disturbance whatever until the officer actually laid hands upon her. Mr. Barnes further declared that the negro messenger did not touch Mrs. Morris. The eye-witnesses flatly deny this. They say that, as a matter of fact, the negro caught hold of the lady's ankles and actively assisted in her removal from the house.

This flat contradiction between the administration and impartially disposed eye-witnesses is little short of astounding. The strength of the latter's testimony would be rather difficult to discredit. More or less insignificant at first glance, this unhappy affair has now become an issue of real importance. The President owes it to himself and to the people to have it immediately and fully investigated. If Mr. Barnes' statement is correct, he has a right to have its accuracy established. If it is incorrect, the people have a right to know it. An attempt at hushing up must prove unsatisfactory to everybody. Pending investigation, it is inevitable that the administration should rest under the unpleasant suspicion of having been guilty of "coloring" the news.

From Washington comes another story, growing out of this one, which is hardly less disagreeable. A certain correspondent wired his paper an account of the Morris episode—which was full, frank and not at all in accordance with the official version issued by the assistant secretary. Whereupon he was duly summoned before Secretary Loeb and admonished that the manner in which he had handled his story had proved very objectionable to the White House. The said possible inference is that White House news must be served only in a way that is agreeable to the administration, and that correspondents who have the temerity to violate this order must do so at the risk of the Presidential displeasure.

The argument that a particular news story is "objectionable to the White House" is, obviously, a highly improper one. It is difficult to distinguish such a comment from a deliberate attempt at coercion. The only adverse criticism which Secretary Loeb, or anybody else, is warranted in passing upon any decent newspaper story is that it does not give the facts. If decent and if it does give the facts, there is literally nothing to be said. If the White House wishes the correspondents to send only things that are agreeable and flattering to their newspapers, there is just one way in which it can accomplish this. It must take care that only agreeable and flattering things are allowed to happen there.

A free and unrestricted press is a national asset of tremendous importance with which not even the President of the United States has the slightest right to tamper.

## Mr. Williams' Make-Up Party.

Hon. John Sharpe Williams, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, makes the pleasing announcement that he and Representative Hay, of Virginia, have shaken hands and made friends. Mr. Williams adds: "When John Williams gives his hand he doesn't give it half-heartedly. It is all or nothing, so that matter is amicably ended."

That is a manly saying. No true and sincere man ever settles a personal difficulty with a reservation. "When he settles, he settles, letting by-ones be bygones and 'forgetting' as well as 'forgiving.' It is the only way. Men and brethren, to settle any of our affairs, if we cannot settle upon such terms we should not settle at all. When we do settle, when we give our hand in token that the incident is closed, we should at the same time put out of the heart any feeling of unkindness, of spite, of ill-will, of grudge—wipe out the score completely and make a clean transaction. The man who pretends to settle in full, but keeps and harbors his grudges is dishonest.

On the eve of the assembly of the Legislature we have in the editorial columns of The Times-Dispatch a statement from Amherst county showing that twenty convicts employed on the public roads there cost \$162.23 a day each, while free labor would have cost \$1.62 1-2. We do not know the purpose of the

editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—As a wayfarer in your city, fortunate enough to be present at a meeting of your Virginia Historical Society on Thursday evening, let me congratulate Richmond that it has in Colonel Gordon McCabe, the late president of the society, one of the most finished scholars and literatures in America.

The writer has been a member of historical societies, both North and South, for many years, but never heard an address of the same character as that of Colonel McCabe, as well written, and as well delivered. As a rule our historical writers have a wretched public delivery and know nothing of elocutionary art. In which Colonel McCabe is a past master. It is only to be regretted that he does not publish more of his valuable monographs.

Prof. Trent's address on historical writing was admirable and to the point. We need care in historical papers as well as in novels, and which too many of our modern college professors of history are prone to forget. One would rather know how many when Powhatan killed the chief of the Powhatan Indians than how many the exact year of his birth.  
H. P. GODDARD,  
Richmond, Va.

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PREPARED BY  
J. W. Lyon, D.D.S.

publication, but it is instructive.—Richmond News Leader.

The purpose of the publication was manifest. It was an exhibit. It was "publicity." The taxpayers should have the opportunity to study the accounts of public officials who gather and disburse public funds. We have never thought that convicts from the penitentiary could be profitably employed in working the public roads. But that is neither here nor there. It is merely an opinion. But facts and figures and practical tests are instructive, and our contemporary admits that the Amherst article is instructive. The Times-Dispatch is an earnest advocate of road improvement, and if it can be shown that working convicts is the best means to that end, let that plan be adopted. But let us learn all we can in the meantime from the experience of those counties which have made the experiment.

Mr. Roosevelt's canal policy is emphatically endorsed by no less a personage than the President of the United States.

Some of us would be better able to decide whether or not the currency was flexible if we saw more of it.

It is pretty safe to infer that Mrs. Morris has elicited lots of sympathy in the Newburgh grocery store.

On the other hand, a gas profit, if decently large, would receive plenty of honor even in its own country.

As to answering any leading questions, Mr. Rogers, while not from Missouri, plainly wants to be shown.

To swear never to do a certain thing and then go right ahead and do it—what would you McCall that?

Few worthy institutions shake off their friends so promptly as does the water wagon.

Walk right into the Capitol, gentlemen, and sit down—if you can find a chair.

But Mr. Fitzsimmons never claimed to be the champion of the wedding ring.

Another marked fault in the currency is that it is not really current.

## Rhymes for To-Day

Purely Imaginary.  
His was the love that soothes, endears:  
The flame allured the more it burned  
He wooed like mad, and yet for years  
She spurned him.

He was her shadow and her slave,  
Her jargon and her errand runner—  
Until (ah, let your poems rave)  
He won her.

They wed. They quarrelled much. Now  
He's  
Quit loving and begun detesting;  
He's suing for divorce, and she's  
Gone home, says he, "such legal strife."  
Take heed, young man, you don't get in  
one—  
It's harder for to lose a wife  
Than win one.  
H. S. H.

## Merely Joking.

Queer Coincidence.—Mrs. Kratchett: "Bridget, I don't like the looks of that man who called to see you last night." Bridget: "Well, well, ain't it funny, ma'am? He said the same about you."—Philadelphia Record.

A Shrewd Mad.—"Well, Jinks has struck it rich at last," "How's that?" "He evolved a tobacco sauce that'll throw a man into convulsions. He's selling slews of it for hazing purposes."—Houston Chronicle.

The Difficulty.—It is a difficult matter to treat a man for drunkenness. As a rule, the more you treat him, the drunker he gets.—Philadelphia Record.

Microbes as Mathematicians.—Johnnie: "Pa, want you please buy me a microscope to help me with my arithmetic?" Papa: "What good will a microscope do you?" Johnnie: "I just read in this paper that they multiply rapidly."—Judge.

A Host in Himself.—"Have much of an audience for the opening performance of your new extravaganza?" asked the first manager. "Pretty fair," replied the second manager; "all the collaborators on the thing were there."—Houston Chronicle.

High Figures, Too?—"He's a great man on figures," "Mathematician, eh?" "No, a ladies' tailor."—Minneapolis Journal.

Secret Out.—"Why is it," queried the fox, "that you always look so lean and hungry?" "Tradition is responsible for it," answered the wolf. "It requires me to hang around the poet's door all the time."—Chicago Daily News.

## A Tribute to Colonel McCabe.

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## QUERIES AND .....ANSWERS

Pronunciation.  
Will you please give me the pronunciation of "laughter" through your query column? READER.  
Laughter, broad "a," like "at" in father.

The Busby Suit.  
How did the Busby suit come out? E. L. C.  
It was decided in favor of the defendant.

Work in the Legislature.  
To whom should one apply to secure typewriting work for the Legislature during the session? W. X. Y.  
Apply to Clerk Williams, of the House, and Clerk Button of the Senate.

The Virginia Senators.  
Will you please inform me in your next Wednesday paper the Washington address of both the United States Senators from Virginia?  
John W. Daniel, This S. Martin, Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

Skippers in Hams.  
Please answer in your Wednesday query column the best method of keeping skippers from getting in hams to be retained for summer and fall table use. I had several hams last year and they got so full of skippers that I could not eat them.  
SUBSCRIBER.

Rub the hams off well when they are hanging up from the salt, and sift powdered borax over the fleshy part of the ham. This can be done by putting the borax in a small muslin bag.

Coney Island.  
Please publish in your next Sunday's query column the name and address of one of the head officials of Coney Island, N. Y., and oblige an old subscriber.  
READER.

Coney Island has no political head, but is a part of the Borough of Brooklyn, and, therefore, would come under the president of that borough, Mr. Bird S. Color who in turn is under Geo. B. McClellan, mayor of New York City.

The Husband's Portion.  
What the law allows, a married man, if his wife dies without a will; if she owns the home in fee simple right. And what is the law in regard to personal property, if she has a child by him and living.  
READER AND SUBSCRIBER.

The house goes to the husband for life, and at his death to the child. The personal property belongs absolutely to the surviving husband, to go with it as he pleases. See Va. Code, 1904, Sec. 2557.

## Rejected Congressmen in 1865.

Will you publish the names of the gentlemen who were elected to the House of Representatives of the United States in the fall of 1865, and who were not allowed to take their seats? Hon. Alex. H. Stuart, of the Sixth District, but I do not know the names of the others.  
Yours truly,  
ALEX. F. ROBERTSON.

The Executive Journal for 1865 does not show that these elections were certified by Governor Pierpont. The executive papers for the period are packed in storage at present and not accessible.

## Correspondence Schools.

Can a young man of fairly good English education be taught a profession through the mail by a correspondence school? Please give name and address of some of the best correspondence schools of America who assist pupils in finding employment. Also, please advise as to best paying professions that could be taught by mail.

I received inclose circular from a school. Is such a contract of any value? Are they reliable? Please answer in your next weekly paper, as I am very anxious for some reliable advice on the subject.  
SUBSCRIBER.

We do not think it practicable for a man to be taught a profession in this indirect method. Of course we cannot undertake to advertise correspondence schools in this department, nor to pass upon the reliability of any concern or the value of its contracts.

## School Holidays.

I have been informed that Thanksgiving is not generally allowed as a holiday in the country